

LIEUTENANT GEORGE WALTON—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 688.]

MAY 4, 1860.

Mr. VANCE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Thomas Walton, the heir of Lieutenant George Walton, deceased, having had the same under consideration, report :*

The petitioner, Thomas Walton, sets forth that he is the only heir of the said George Walton, deceased, who was a lieutenant of cavalry of the Georgia continental line, and served as lieutenant under Captain Samuel Scott, of said line, until 1779, when the said Scott, as appears from the evidence filed, was promoted to major in the militia; that it appears, also, by a resolution of the Virginia convention of June 14, 1776, that Messrs. George Walton, jr., Joseph Dannil, Robert Walton, and Samuel Scott are noticed as officers from Georgia and South Carolina, to whom leave was given by the convention to recruit soldiers in Virginia for the southern service.

This part of said Lieutenant Walton's services is fully sustained by Nancy Calloway, an aged lady, who says that "Captain Scott enlisted a great many men from the counties of Prince Edward, Bedford, Botetourt, and Halifax; that his lieutenant was ——— Walton, son of George Walton, of Prince Edward county." The said witness also states that "in the year 1777 Lieutenant Walton enlisted a company, and that his headquarters were in Prince Edward county, and that he marched it to the State of Georgia, to be placed under the command of Captain Samuel Scott; that while recruiting it was known that the men were to serve under Captain Scott, and they were called 'Scott's troop.'" The above evidence is fully sustained by Mrs. Sarah Betts in regard to the services of said George Walton, jr. She says "she saw George Walton, jr., at the house of his father, George Walton, sr., in Prince Edward county, Virginia, some time during the progress of the revolutionary war, which place he made his headquarters for recruiting a company of soldiers for the army, and that after he had recruited his company, as captain or lieutenant he marched it to the

State of Georgia." That at the time he, the said George Walton, was recruiting his men it was well known and understood by everybody that they were for the Georgia service, and that she also recollects distinctly the barracks which the said soldiers built on the land of George Walton, his father, for themselves to sleep in, and that they also built a kitchen to do their cooking in.

The next evidence the committee refer to, touching the service of said Lieutenant George Walton, is, that his name is to be found on a "list" taken from a book in the executive office at Milledgeville, prepared by the late Major A. B. Fannin, containing "the names of such officers and soldiers only" who made application to the governor and council of the State of Georgia "for their bounty lands under the resolution of Congress of September 16, 1776, and act of Georgia legislature of February 17, 1783," as a lieutenant.

And that the name of said George Walton is also to be found on the roll of "names of the officers who were in the continental line of the Georgia brigade during the revolutionary war as a lieutenant, including infantry, dragoons, legionary corps, and general staff."

The above extracts are duly certified to by C. W. Dunnington, justice of the peace, as true copies from "White's Historical Collections of Georgia," as having been taken from books in the executive department of Georgia, said George Walton's name being recorded as lieutenant.

Believing, as the committee do, that the above evidence is sufficient to found a claim for bounty land under the laws of Virginia, and that the papers in the Pension office, containing evidence of said George Walton's services in Georgia from June, 1776, to the close of the revolutionary war, were lost or mislaid from prior to 1844 to 1854, when found in said office, as explained by the chief clerk, Mr. Coale; but the period of limitation for the presentation of bounty land claims to the executive of Virginia having expired March, 1852, the governor refused properly to entertain the application in the like case of Captain Samuel Scott's heirs. Under these circumstances, the petitioner, Thomas Walton, heir of said Lieutenant George Walton, alleges that the heirs will lose the land to which they are justly entitled unless Congress shall interpose in their behalf.

Without undertaking to decide whether the petitioners are entitled to the bounty land they claim, your committee think it reasonable that they should have an opportunity of establishing their right, as it appears they have lost it, by the act of the officers of the Pension office, and not by any act of the heirs. They therefore report a bill authorizing the Commissioner of the Land Office to investigate the case, and to grant them a land warrant or warrants for such quantity of land as they would have been entitled to but for the loss of the Scott papers in the Pension office, which also proves the revolutionary services of said Lieutenant George Walton, deceased.